

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE MORBIDITY PROFILE OF SALTPAN WORKERS OF THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT - A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY 2017

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:

Salt workers are one of the unorganised sectors in Tamil Nadu. Salt pan workers working in the extremely hot environment are susceptible to wide variety of health hazards like eye, skin, musculoskeletal, respiratory, psychosocial and urinary tract problems. In spite of Salt Pan Workers given importance in the National Occupational health Program there is lack of epidemiological data on the health problems and status of the Salt pan workers.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To assess the morbidity profile of salt pan workers of Thoothukudi district
- 2) To identify the factors influencing the morbidity profile of salt pan workers of Thoothukudi

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A community based cross sectional study was conducted among 186 salt pan workers in the age 15- 60 years in Thoothukudi from March 2017 to August 2018 using a semi structured pre tested questionnaire which had questions socio demographic details , nature and duration of work, health problems and clinical examination was done. Data was entered in MS excel and analysis done using SPSS 16 version software. Appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics were used.

RESULTS:

The study revealed that skin problems with a prevalence of 63.4% were the most reported problem. Musculoskeletal (59.7%), psychosocial (53.2%), Eye problems (52.7%) and respiratory (38.2%) were the other problems prevalent in the study group. Urinary tract problems (18.8%) were the least reported. 83% of the salt

pan workers were having adequate knowledge on the use of personal protective measures 62% were using one or more personal protective measures. Age, sex, level of education, duration of work and Nature of the work were the factors influencing the morbidity of the salt pan workers.

CONCLUSION:

This study indicated that the salt pan workers were most susceptible to Skin, musculoskeletal and eye problems. Also there was a gap between the knowledge and usage of personal protective measures. So we need to strengthen the Behaviour Change Communication activities regarding the usage of personal protective measure and provide adequate health care to the salt pan workers.

KEY WORDS:

Salt pan workers, Prevalence, Morbidity Profile.